

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAB-01 SAM-01 SSM-03 /075 W
----- 086824

R 231244Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7906

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: TENSION CONTINUES ON THE WEST BANK

REF: JERUSALEM 0545

1. SUMMARY. ISRAELIS INCREASE SECURITY MEASURES IN NABLUS. DEMONSTRATIONS AND ARRESTS IN JERICHO. LARGE FATAH GANG REPORTED BROKEN UP NEAR JENIN. NEW CITY COUNCILS TAKE OVER APRIL 28. JORDAN REPORTEDLY WILL CONTINUE FINANCIAL SUUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE WAKE OF VIOLENT CLASHES IN NABLUS WHICH LEFT ONE DEAD AND SEVERAL INJURED, ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES HAVE ERECTED IRON BARRICADES TO SEAL OFF PARTS OF THE CASBAH FROM THE NEW CITY. AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO REPORTEDLY SEALED QADRI TUCAN HIGH SCHOOL SCENE OF LAST MONTH'S CONFRONTATION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND TROOPS WHICH PROMPTED THE RESIGNATION OF THE NABLUS CITY COUNCIL. A WELL-INFORMED CONGEN SOURCE ALSO REPORTS THAT ABOUT 50 STUDENTS ARRESTED IN RECENT DISTURBANCES WERE SENTENCED IN NIGHT
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TRIALS EARLIER THIS WEEK TO SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT

AND FINED IL 5,000 EACH. CBS TV FILM CREW IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE HAD FOOTAGE SHOT IN NABLUS APRIL 20 CONFISCATED AND DESTROYED BY MILGOV.

3. ISRAELI NEWS MEDIA REPORTED APRIL 23 THAT 40 MEMBERS OF A FATAH GANG NEAR JENIN HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP. THEY REPORTEDLY ADMITTED, AFTER INTERROGATIONS, MURDERING AN ISRAELI BUS DRIVER, FIRING ON AND BURNING BUSES AND CARS AND ATTACKING A JENIN POLICEMAN. THE GROUP'S MISSION WAS REPORTEDLY TO HINDER ARABS WORKING IN ISRAEL. LEAFLETS AND ARMS WERE REPORTEDLY FOUND IN LARGE QUANTITIES IN THEIR HIDEOUTS.

4. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS OF ANTI GUSH EMUNIM DEMONSTRATIONS BY STUDENTS IN JERICHO APRIL 20-21 WHICH RESULTED IN ARRESTS.

5. THE NEWLY-ELECTED CITY COUNCILS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE OFFICE APRIL 28. ISRAELI AUTHORITIES HAVE YET TO ANNOUNCE APPROVAL OF MAYORS-ELECT WHO IN MANY TOWNS ARE THE "NATIONALIST" SLATE LEADERS.

6. THE ARABIC DAILY AL QUDS REPORTS APRIL 23 THAT JORDAN HAS AGREED TO COOPERATE WITH THE NEW COUNCILS AND CONTINUE FINANCIAL SUPPORT DESPITE ITS OPPOSITION TO THE ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN THE ELECTION LAW.

7. COMMENT: WITH APPROACH OF HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATION EXAM (TAWJIHI, JUNE 14) IMPRISONMENT OF STUDENTS CONSTITUTES SERIOUS THREAT TO THEIR FUTURE EDUCATION AS HIGHER EDUCATION IS USUALLY IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT GOOD SCORE. UNTIL NOW, ISRAELIS HAVE GENERALLY AVOIDED IMPRISONMENT OF STUDENTS EVEN WHEN FINES HAVE GONE UNPAID. AL QUDS USUALLY WELL-INFORMED OFTEN AS TO JORDANIAN VIEWS ON WEST BANK ISSUES.
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